

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health
OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Thursday, April 24, 2014

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

**Please note the minutes are a brief summary and
not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.**

Larry Gasco, Chairman, Presiding

1. Call to Order – Larry Gasco

- The meeting was called to order by Larry Gasco
- Roll Call by Canetana Hurd
- Attendance recorded as follows:
Absent excused: Jerry Lubin, Judy Cooperberg, Victoria Sofro, and Fred Leaf
- Approval of Minutes – Commissioner McNeill asked Chairman Gasco to clarify a comment made in his Commissions' report. Minutes will be amended to note the clarification. Commissioner McNeill motioned for the approval of March 2014 minutes of the Commission.

Commissioner Herman DeBose abstained.

Chairman Gasco stated, the motion unanimously passes to approve the amended minutes with all members present and voting.

2. DMH Report – Dr. Marvin J. Southard, Department Head

- Dr. Southard reported he will share the final template that outlines the role of all departments involved in the CHFFA grant. The CHFFA grant will fund crisis centers and residential beds, Laura's Law, and a pre-booking diversion pilot project.

Dr. Southard explained the pre-booking diversion plan. Law enforcement will engage people who have committed minor crimes will be taken to triage centers then linked to community resources. Pilot programs will be placed in Long Beach, some Los Angeles and Sheriff Stations. DMH will be using UCLA's Community Partners and Care model that won the Teen Science Award. Using this plan is a validation of the department's commitment to engage in community projects.

- The state is considering final actions to fully acclimate drug programs for service integration.

3. Chairman's Report – Larry Gasco

- **Welcome New Commissioner** – Commissioner Lawrence J. Lue was appointed by Supervisor Gloria Molina. Mr. Lue shared his interest in linguistic access to services to Chinese, other Asian and Pacific Islander and other linguistically isolated ethnic populations.

- **Executive Committee Report** – Chairman Gasco announced that Jerry Lubin joined the meeting via conference call, and recovery is going well. Other topics discussed; upcoming election, Capitol Day in Sacramento, and feedback on whether Cathy Warner will present at full meeting.
- **MHC/SAAC Chairs Meeting Highlights**
 1. Opportunity to learn from each co-chair
 2. Angel Baker, Administrator, Program Support Bureau announced \$5K for each SAAC to host a legislative breakfast in their area.
 3. The MHSA 3 year plan process with SAACs was a successful attempt to solicit each service area and the flexibility of designing an easy process to obtain the report online.
- **SLT (System Leadership Team) Appointment** – Commissioner Herman DeBose was appointed to represent the Commission on the SLT to replace Jerry Lubin.
- **CALMHBC (California Association of Local Mental Health Boards/Commissions)** – Commissioners Gasco, DeBose, and Huffman attended the CALMHBC meeting in Irvine, CA April 17-20 and reported the following:
 - a) New members
 - b) Current president resigned, the vice president was absent. Larry Gasco played a major role in moving the meeting forward.
 - c) Learning about other counties is valuable to everyone.
 - d) Funding for CALMHBC is \$55k per year.
 - e) Training from CIMH on understanding data
 - f) Los Angeles County has two vacancies for director
 - g) CALMHBC needs an office staff person to assist the organization
- **Executive Officer Election** – Election for new officers will start May 2014. Current officers expressed an interest to remain in their current capacities. If this arrangement is approved by Executive Committee, Chairman would move the election process forward and take nominations from the floor at the May and June meetings.
- **Annual Retreat** – Commissioners DeBose and Lue both announced that they are unable to attend the retreat on June 21. It was suggested to move the retreat date to June 28.

Motion made to move the retreat date to June 28 to accommodate the facilitator and new commissioner.

Commissioner Perrou motioned to move retreat date to June 28 and establish the first Saturday in June as the annual retreat date.

Commissioner Lue seconded the motion.

- **Legislative Report** – Susan Rajlal reported that the legislative body is hearing bills, comments on AB 1725 that pertain to dementia and conservatorship, and discussed the pros and cons of HR 3713.
4. **Public Comments**
William Legere – Spoke about the health of mental health consumers.

Gabriela Alhambra – Announced a conference on May 13. Luis Garcia, PsyD will speak on reforms and health laws in the community

Patricia Russell – The Welfare and Institutions Codes 5350 – 5372, 5350 a person of the estate or a person may be appointed for a person who is gravely disabled as a result of a mental disorder or impaired by chronic alcoholism, Court 95A does not honor this.

Marissa Squirrel Caleste – As a client with advance recovery, I'm not getting my needs met to assist me with community integration/return to work goals. My needs are: sufficient case management, ongoing advanced group, peer guidance/support as well as opportunities to continue expanding any skills not only as a peer counselor/life coach but as a presenter/trainer. I am not alone in this lack of support and services @ Long Beach MHC. A solution to this as I see it: A free standing wellness center for clients that not only has clinical staff but also a 50% minimum of its employees that are either WOW workers or part time or full time wellness center staff. This combination would provide sufficient supports for people as they start shifting from clinical support to integration into the community, ongoing education and skill building groups education @ college, and/or return to workforce. Overall I feel this would help: alleviate case codes @ Long Beach MHC.

Robert Coto – Asked about getting buses for clients to go to Sacramento for the mental health movement May 13, 2014.

Kimberly Whyte – I have comments involving mental health individuals with expungement and live scan issues not able to be a part of the WOW program because of the denial of County volunteer badges. We cannot even be a part of client run programs

Reba Stevens – Retreat agenda, Commissioner Dr. DeBose, Director Dr. Southard, Commissioner Larry Lue.

Reba Stevens – Director of Empowerment and Advocacy and Commissioners Retreat

5. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Perrou – There were 543 guests who attended the Stepping In Conference April 23 in Norwalk, CA. Jill, a 48 year old woman from the Antelope Valley presented the most captivating speech about her life and recovery.

The MILES Conference is coming. The topic for the conference is "Bullying."

Commissioner Delores Huffman - Addressed comments made during the meeting on housing. She stated that in the future she will report more housing information at the meetings hoping to better inform the public.

6. SAAC/Community Reports/LACCC

SAAC 1 – Jean Harris, Co-Chair

- State surveyed Antelope Valley on effectiveness in serving the needs of the community.

- Finding a psychiatrist is difficult. We are collaborating with Telecare to provide more psychiatrists in the area.

SAAC 2 – Barbara Wilson, Member

- Spending time in small groups with 3-year plan and law enforcement committee to set up training to access people with disabilities.

SAAC 3 – William Legere

- Diti Perez is the SAAC Co-Chair. Last meeting discussions were about TAY/Children and address API community because they are hush hush about mental health issues.

SAAC 5 – Celinda Jungheim, Co-Chair

- Candidates for the 3rd District will be invited to a Town Hall meeting on May 12. The SAAC wrote a white paper to present to candidates on housing.
- Recovery presentation on the 24 hour period was made.

SAAC 6 – Dorothy Banks, Co-Chair

- On May 15, the service area will honor Ms. Eddie Lamon and Commissioner Hayward McNeill for their tireless commitment serving the community at Kedren Mental Health Center from 11 am – 1 pm.
- The SAAC is currently addressing issues and gaps.

SAAC 8 – John Czernek

- Celebration for Martha Long, retired SAAC member
- Presentation on hope and recovery
- First welcoming committee
- Diverse population

LACCC – Pam Inaba, Chair

June 23 Client/Consumer Conference at California Endowment
Elections in June

Pam Inaba will step down and introduce new chair Betty Dandino

7. **Meeting adjourned**

8. **NEXT MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING**

Thursday, May 22, 2014
9:30 – 11:30 (meeting)
11:30 – 4 (public hearing)
St. Anne's Community
155 N. Occidental
Los Angeles, CA

Minutes prepared by Canetana Hurd